

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 20, 26-37, 56-69, 83-95, and 107-114 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,850,914 to Harada et al. ("*Harada*"). The Examiner objected to claims 8-19, 21-25, 38-55, 70-82, 96-106, and 138-161 as being dependent on rejected base claims, but did not reject those claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103.

The Examiner required Applicants to provide English abstracts of documents cited in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on April 18, 2001 and an English translation of the PCT Search Report. Applicants provide an English language copy of the PCT Search Report. Although not required by statute or agency rule, Applicants also provide English abstracts of the non-English language documents cited in the IDS, to the extent such could be found. In addition, a search report from a foreign patent office may fulfill the requirement of a concise explanation of relevance (M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a)(III)).

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 9-19, 22-25, 34, 39-49, 52-55, 64, 71-77, 79-82, 91, 97-101, and 103-106, and cancel claims 8, 38, 70, and 96. Claims 1-7, 9-37, 39-69, 71-95, 97-114, and 138-161 remain pending and under current examination. Claims 1, 34, 64, and 91 are the only independent claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-7, 20, 26-37, 56-69, 83-95, and 107-114. Amended independent claims 1, 34, 64, and 91 incorporate subject matter from canceled dependent claims 8, 38, 70, and 96. The Examiner did

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

not reject claims 8, 38, 70, and 96 in the Office Action. Applicants therefore submit that the amendment places claims 1-7, 9-37, 39-69, 71-95, 97-114, and 138-161 in condition for allowance.


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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